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venience and financial loss to the community, as well as making impossible an adequate knowledge of its history, nearly half of the counties of the state are still without fireproof courthouses. Some counties have the more important records in supposedly fireproof vaults, but it is asserted that "in nearly one-fifth of the counties of Illinois, the records are in immediate danger of wholesale destruction by fire." Nor is fire the only source of danger, for there are numerous instances of the wanton destruction of records by officials ignorant of their value. It is greatly to be hoped that the publication of this volume will arouse in officials and in the general public a greater sense of responsibility in archive matters, and that the excellent recommendations set forth will be made effective by legislation.

In the body of the book the counties are taken up in alphabetical order, with the exception of Cook which is treated first. In each case an introductory note describes the courthouse and indicates the provisions for the care of the archives. Then follow itemized inventories, classified usually under such headings as county commissioners' and supervisors' records, county court records, taxation records, records of vital statistics, probate court records, records of wills, bonds, and letters, circuit court records, and recorders' records. For each item inclusive dates and the number of volumes or filing boxes are given, and generally the present location of the material is indicated. Too often serious gaps in the records are disclosed.

The successful completion of this monumental work ought to stimulate other states to undertake a similar survey of their county archives. That the local records of Illinois have not been and are not being properly cared for is now definitely established. Is there any good reason for thinking that the situation is much better in the other states of the Northwest?

S. J. B.

Pioneer Laymen of North America. By the REV. T. J. CAMPBELL, S. J. Volume 1. (New York, The America Press, 1915. xvii, 287 p.)

This is the first of two volumes designed as companion books to the author's *Pioneer Priests of North America* (New York, 1908-11. 3 v.). It contains "condensed and somewhat rapid

narrations of the lives of" Cartier, Menéndez, Champlain, Maisonneuve, Charles le Moyne, and Radisson. The Catholic point of view is apparent throughout, and the didactic and controversial character of the work can be inferred from a sentence of the introduction: "From all [of the characters treated], however, lessons of conduct may be learned, and, here and there, in the course of a narrative, it is possible to correct certain false appreciations of facts and motives which a class of biased writers have fastened on American history." Students of Minnesota history will be most interested in the sketch of Radisson. Father Campbell assumes that the "two courageous young Frenchmen" who went into the interior in 1654 and returned in 1656 were Radisson and Groseilliers, but he gives no details about their first western expedition. The expedition of 1658-60 to Lake Superior and Minnesota is recounted briefly, and the alleged discovery of the Mississippi is discussed. The author apparently does not believe that Radisson saw the great river.

The volume is illustrated with a number of portraits and contains a list of books consulted. There are no footnote references, and the index is quite inadequate. A number of misprints are corrected on an errata slip, but others may be noted, as "on" for "one" (p. 238). The "war-whoop" of the United States at the time of the Oregon controversy was not "Forty-four fifty" but "Fifty-four forty or fight" (p. 283).

Minnesota, Its Story and Biography. By HENRY A. CASTLE and board of advisory editors. (Chicago and New York, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1915. 3 v.)

In their origin and root meanings story and history are alike. The former word is used in the title of this work, apparently as a mere synonym of history; but perhaps it is intended to carry a distinct significance, that the theme is treated in the style of the news reporter and editor. Twenty years in Minnesota journalism, between fifty and thirty years ago, gave to Captain Castle the skill and temperament which are discernible throughout volume 1, imparting enjoyable spice and flavor. Volumes 2 and 3 comprise about 1,760 biographical sketches of Minnesota people, mostly